

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 14, 1998

LB 1259

the enterprise zone board. Notwithstanding Senator Hartnett's most accurate remarks, do you believe that the city council representing south Omaha has a clear understanding of all the aspects of this bill and did you...did you have any conversations with him that would lead you to believe to that conclusion?

SENATOR PREISTER: Senator Hilgert, I...I can't speak for Paul Koneck, the council member from the district, in terms of if he has a clear understanding. It's my understanding that he has a clear understanding; that he and the other council members did review it and that they were supportive.

SENATOR HILGERT: Okay. Well, that's different than what the city representative had...that told me when this bill was on Select, and I certainly respect your response. One other question I have regarding this bill, if there would be legislation that would establish that the MOCSEA board control all the funds, if we raise sales taxes, we raise that quarter of a billion dollars for a new convention center arena, if we put the sales tax back on food, if we put the sales tax on prescription drugs, on oxygen and other services, would you see this power that you're ceding to the enterprise zone board to an appointed board, such as a MOCSEA group concerning our convention center arena? Or does the policy shift perhaps with the groups that we're working with, Senator?

SENATOR PREISTER: I...I think we have some similarities, Senator, but I think we also have some differences, and the city council still really has the final authority. This group in the enterprise zone can't really utilize the money unless the city council approves it. They make the recommendations. Certainly the recommendations have to be there, but they really don't have the ultimate authority. It still remains with the city council.

SENATOR HILGERT: Well, could the city council, under this, if this bill were enacted, could they...could they advocate for a project that the board decided was not worthwhile?

SENATOR PREISTER: It's a possibility.

SENATOR HILGERT: So if this...would you be in favor next